

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 531

Short Title: Public Bodies/Mods to Remote Meeting Reqs. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Burgin and Foushee (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 6, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAW REGARDING REMOTE MEETINGS  
3 BY PUBLIC BODIES DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 166A-19.24 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 166A-19.24. Remote meetings during ~~certain~~ declarations of emergency.**

7 (a) Remote Meetings. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon issuance of a  
8 declaration of emergency under ~~G.S. 166A-19.20~~, G.S. 166A-19.20 or G.S. 166A-19.22, any  
9 public body within the emergency area may conduct remote meetings in accordance with this  
10 section and Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes throughout the duration of that  
11 declaration of emergency. It is presumed that a remote meeting is open to the public if the public  
12 body has complied with the requirements of this section.

13 ...

14 (b1) Change In-Person Meeting to Remote Meeting. – A public body that has issued a  
15 notice for an in-person meeting may amend the notice to make the meeting a remote meeting no  
16 later than six hours prior to the noticed time for the in-person meeting. The revised notice and  
17 the remote meeting shall comply with all the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

18 ...

19 (e) Public Hearings. – A public body may conduct any public hearing required or  
20 authorized by law during a remote meeting, and take action thereon, provided the public body  
21 allows for written comments on the subject of the public hearing to be submitted between  
22 publication of any required notice and 24 hours ~~after~~ prior to the noticed time for the public  
23 hearing.

24 ...."

25 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

